

IN HONOR OF THE SNOHOMISH  
COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

## HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress, we spend countless hours in this chamber discussing issues related to juvenile crime, and we all agree that we must do more than merely punish juvenile criminals—we must develop programs in our communities to keep our youth from becoming criminals in the first place. I rise today to pay special tribute to some wonderful individuals from the Snohomish County Prosecutor's office that are helping our young people to become healthy, productive, law-abiding citizens. These volunteers, in collaboration with local schoolteachers, conduct the Courtrooms to Classrooms program.

This innovative program, funded through a federal grant, provides young students an opportunity to learn nonviolent problem solving techniques and avoid self-destructive behaviors. Initiated by Prosecuting Attorney James Krider and adapted by Lynn Mattson-Eul, the Courtrooms to Classrooms's curriculum allows students to: bound with positive role models, appreciate how laws influence their daily lives, learn about our justice system, and explore new career options from local prosecuting attorneys. The Courtrooms to Classroom program assists students in understanding the individual responsibilities one has as a member of society, and developing analytical skills when making routine and serious decisions. One of the highlights of the program is the mock trial of the storybook character "Goldilocks." It is obvious that the important lessons these young people take away from the Courtrooms to Classrooms program will stay with them the rest of their lives.

I encourage my fellow colleagues to join me in thanking the following individuals for taking the time to improve this country by participating in the lives of our children.

Those individuals are: Kathy Jo Kristof, Scott Lord, Becky Quirk, Walt Sowa, Charlie Blackman, Julie Twito, Jim Townsend, Paul Stern, Mara Rozzano,

Aaron Shields, Jason Cummings, Tom Curtis, Chris Dickinson, Colleen St. Clair, Dave Kurtz, Randy Yates, Dave Thiele, Patricia Lyon, Seth Fine, Steven Bladdek, Michael Held, John Swanson, Serena Hart, Kerri Oseguera, Sandra Walters, Marie Turk, Ted Mueser, Mark Roe, Craig Matheson, Lisa Paul, Remy Leonard, Barbara Finnie, Matt Hunter, John Stansell, Kathy Patterson, Craig Bray, Cindy Larsen, Erica Temple, Hal Hupp, Ed Stemier, George Appel, Karen Jorgensen-Peters, Lisa Hanna, Linda Scoccia, Tim Geraghty, Sherry King, Karen Moore, Dave Wold, Diane Kremenich, Susan Lewis, Debbie Cicardini, Karen Kahmann, Diana Kinnebrew, Patricia Bear, Tricia Bryant, Anna Clark, Chery Park, Amy Matthiesen, and Cheri Wantola.

FORCED CHILD LABOR IN CHINA

## HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincerest condolences to the families of the 42 individuals—including 37 young school children—who died in a horrible explosion in China on March 6 of this year. This tragedy resulted from a situation of forced child labor in which the deceased third- and fourth-graders were required to spend long hours during the school day making firecrackers. Along with 16 co-sponsors, today I am introducing a bipartisan resolution that expresses condolences to the families of the deceased and expresses support for international trade agreements that will enforce the International Labor Organization's core labor standards, which include prohibition of child labor and forced labor.

For years, the parents of children in the Fanglin elementary school, which is in a small village 40 miles southwest of Shanghai, had complained that their children were being forced by school officials to manufacture large firecrackers at school. Every day, the young children were required to spend hours mounting fuses and detonators into the firecrackers that were then sold by local officials. To ensure that their monetary intake remained high, the officials set a sliding production quota that started at 1,000 firecrackers per day for the youngest children and reached 10,000 firecrackers per day for the fifth-graders.

It was only a matter of time before this disturbing example of forced and dangerous child labor would end in tragedy. On a Tuesday afternoon, the firecrackers exploded in the elementary school and took the lives of the 37 young children.

Chinese Prime Minister Zhu immediately denied the use of forced child labor, and Communist Party officials invented a story about a "mad man" who entered the school and set off the explosion as part of his suicide attempt. However, thanks to the courageous and persistent reporting of both Chinese and international journalists, Prime Minister Zhu was eventually forced to acknowledge the true events of March 6.

The forced labor and child labor in China violates several conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO), but unfortunately the ILO has no enforcement powers. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting a bipartisan House Resolution that expresses our condolences to the families of the deceased and urges strong international action to enforce the ILO core labor standards.

## THE 47TH ANNUAL NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

## HON. STEVE LARGENT

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House and Senate Prayer Groups, it was an honor to chair the 47th Annual National Prayer Breakfast held on February 4th, 1999.

This annual breakfast is an opportunity for leaders and guests from around the world to

join in love and unity as we celebrate our faith in God and the religious freedom that our country protects. We put our differences aside and come together as children of God of pray for peace and reconciliation.

No other event during my years as a member of Congress has been such a blessing as the National Prayer Breakfast. The thoughts and prayers shared at this year's breakfast were beneficial to those who attended, and I believe they will be so many more. I am therefore including the program and transcript to be printed in the RECORD. The program and transcript follow:

1999 NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST,  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1999, HILTON  
WASHINGTON AND TOWERS HOTEL,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.,

Chairman: Representative Steve Largent

Representative LARGENT. My name is Steve Largent, and I want to welcome you to the National Prayer Breakfast. I am a member of the House of Representatives from the state of Oklahoma, and I am this year's chairman and will be acting as the Master of Ceremonies for at the prayer breakfast this year.

It is my pleasure at this time to introduce Mr. Jim Kimsey, who will begin with our pre-breakfast prayer.

Mr. KIMSEY. Basil was a fourth-century saint from Asia Minor. He said, "We pray in the morning to give us the first stirrings our mind to God. Before anything else, let the thought of God gladden you." Would you begin this day with me in prayer?

Dear God, may the efforts of all those gathered here today reach far and wide—our thoughts, our work, our lives. Make them blessings for your kingdom. Let them go beyond today. Our lives today have consequences unseen. Each life has a purpose. Please, God, grant us the wisdom to recognize that purpose.

Today is new and unlike any other day, for God makes each day different. To live each day wisely, we need wisdom—wisdom in our hearts and in our thoughts. We need wisdom in the choices we make. Psalm 90 implores us, "Lord, teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom in our heart."

Each day, like today, we pray to God to help us to do the things that matter, not to waste the time we have. We know the moments we have are precious. We pray that God helps us count them dear and teach us to number our days aright; that he fills this day and every day with kindness so that we may be glad and rejoice all the days of our life.

Numbering our days aright is crucial for our own happiness, but it is even more important for the rest of the world. Each day we are presented with opportunities to make a difference; small differences, like a hello to a lonely neighbor, to extra change dropped in a homeless person's cup. And we can make big differences feeding the hungry, teaching children to read, bridging understanding and peace between nations. Every difference you make matters, just as every day matters. Edmund Burke wisely noted long ago, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

We are especially blessed today. We have a unique opportunity in our frantic lives to begin with prayer and listen to the wisdom of the incredible group assembled here today. I would like to leave you with one thought. Yesterday is history, and tomorrow is a mystery. But today is a gift. Thank you.

(Opening Song by the United States Army Chorus.)

Representative LARGENT. Thank you to the United States Army Chorus. We appreciate